

CLAIMS

1. A method of designing an electronic assembly, the method comprising the steps of:
 - transmitting a user interface application from a server machine
 - 5 to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network,
 - receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data input into the client machine,
 - retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data, and
 - 10 updating the user interface application on the client machine in response to the assembly cost data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the user interface application to the client machine via the publicly-
15 accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by the server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the user interface application from the server machine to the client
20 machine via the Internet.
4. The method claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting an assembly cost database with the user interface application from the server machine to the client machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of the client machine.

5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the publicly-accessible global network.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step includes
10 retrieving the assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on the client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step includes
retrieving the assembly cost data, via the publicly-accessible global network, from an
15 assembly cost database stored on the server machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step includes
retrieving the assembly cost data from the server machine via the publicly-accessible
20 global network.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database in response
to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of updating the user interface application on the client machine based on the assembly capability data.

5 12. The method of claim 11, wherein updating the user interface application on the client machine based on the assembly capability data includes displaying a traffic light image to a user.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
10 determining a per-unit assembly cost value based on the assembly cost data.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the determining step includes determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value.

15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein determining the per-unit setup cost value and the per-unit run cost value includes determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value for each work center of an electronic assembly process in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

20 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the updating step includes displaying the per-unit assembly cost value to the user.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a tooling cost value in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

25

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the determining step includes determining a tooling cost value based on the assembly cost data.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining a user selected-portion of the user interface
application,
5 retrieving an electronic assembly design image based on the
user selected-portion, and
displaying the electronic assembly design image on the client
machine to the user.
- 10 20. A method of designing an electronic assembly, the method
comprising the steps of:
transmitting a user interface application from a server machine
to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network,
receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data input
15 into the client machine,
retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability
database in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data, and
updating the user interface application on the client machine
based on the assembly cost data.
- 20 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the transmitting step includes
transmitting the user interface application to the client machine via the publicly-
accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by the
server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.
- 25

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the user interface application from the server machine to the client machine via the Internet.

5 23. The method claim 20, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting an assembly capability database with the user interface application from the server machine to the client machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the receiving step includes
10 receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of the client machine.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the receiving step includes receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the publicly-accessible
15 global network.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the retrieving step includes retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on the client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

20

27. The method of claim 20, wherein the retrieving step includes retrieving assembly capability data, via the publicly-accessible global network, from an assembly capability database stored on the server machine based on the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

25

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the retrieving step includes retrieving the assembly capability data via the publicly-accessible global network.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the updating step includes displaying a traffic light image to a user.

5 30. The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
determining a user selected-portion of the user interface
application,
retrieving an electronic assembly design image based on the
user selected-portion, and
10 displaying the electronic assembly design image on the client
machine to the user.

31. A method of designing an electronic assembly, the method
comprising the steps of:
15 transmitting a user interface application from a server machine
to a client machine via a publicly-accessible global network,
receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data input
into the client machine,
retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database in
20 response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data,
retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability
database in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data, and
updating the user interface application on the client machine
based on at least one of the assembly cost data and the assembly capability data.

25

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the user interface application to the client machine via the publicly-

accessible global network in response to a user-supplied request received by the server machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the transmitting step includes
5 transmitting the user interface application from the server machine to the client machine via the Internet.

34. The method claim 31, wherein the transmitting step includes
transmitting an assembly cost database and an assembly capability database from the
10 server machine to the client machine via the publicly-accessible global network.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein the receiving step includes
receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via an input device of the
client machine.

15

36. The method of claim 31, wherein the receiving step includes
receiving user-supplied electronic assembly design data via the publicly-accessible
global network.

20 37. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data
includes retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on the
client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data
25 includes retrieving assembly cost data from an assembly cost database stored on the
server machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

39. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly cost data includes retrieving the assembly cost data from an assembly cost database via the publicly-accessible global network

5 40. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data includes retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on the client machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

10 41. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data includes retrieving assembly capability data from an assembly capability database stored on the server machine in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

15 42. The method of claim 31, wherein retrieving assembly capability data includes retrieving the assembly capability data from an assembly capability database via the publicly-accessible global network

20 43. The method of claim 31, wherein updating the user interface application on the client machine includes displaying a traffic light image to a user.

 44. The method of claim 31, further comprising determining a per-unit assembly cost value based on the assembly cost data.

25 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the determining step includes determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value includes determining a per-unit setup cost value and a per-unit run cost value for each work center of a electronic assembly process in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

5

47. The method of claim 44, wherein the updating step includes displaying the per-unit assembly cost value to the user.

48. The method of claim 31, further comprising determining a
10 tooling cost value in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the determining step includes determining a tooling cost value based on the assembly cost data.

50. An article comprising a computer-readable signal-bearing medium having therein a plurality of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

display a user interface application to a user of a client
5 machine,

retrieve assembly cost data from an assembly cost database in response to user-supplied electronic assembly design data input into the client machine,

retrieve assembly capability data from an assembly capability
10 database in response to the user-supplied electronic assembly design data, and

update the user interface application on the client machine based on at least one of the assembly cost data and the assembly capability data.

51. The article of claim 50, wherein the plurality of instructions,
15 when executed by the processor, further cause the processor to retrieve the assembly cost data from a assembly cost database via a publicly-accessible global network.

52. The article of claim 50, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the processor, further cause the processor to retrieve the assembly
20 capability data from an assembly capability database via the publicly-accessible global network.